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REFERENCE BOOK:

CONTAINING

A SUMMARY DIGEST

OF

GLEANINGS IN AMERICA.

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A SUMMARY DIGEST

OF

CRIMINALS IN AMERICA.

REFERENCE BOOK

OF

JAMES HEDDERWICK & SON,

Printers,

MELVILLE-PLACE, GLASGOW,

EXHIBITING THE VARIOUS

SIZES OF PRINTING TYPES

WITH WHICH THEIR OFFICE IS FURNISHED.

Britannia Press.

1823.

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REFERENCE BOOK

JAMES HENDERSON & SON

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OF THE WORLD'S BOOKS

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Printed in

1888

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Glasgow, 1st May, 1823.

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A SUMMARY DIGEST
OF
GLEANINGS IN AMERICA.

BY JAMES HEDDERWICK.

So MANY persons having travelled in America, and published detailed accounts of their observations, my compliance with the request of friends in Scotland, to “favour them with *my opinion* of the real state of things in the United States,” will be comparatively an easy undertaking, as a summary digest may suffice, in place of a formal concatenation of trite localities. It formed no part of my design, in visiting America, to hunt after the means of enlarging the boundaries of science, or to examine, with jealous curiosity, the proficiency of the arts; my object simply having been, to learn if it were a desirable country to reside in, by ascertaining how men thought, acted, and lived in the modern Republic.

In briefly stating the result of my peregrination, I shall endeavour to elucidate my ideas by comparison, as being the most familiar method of appreciating substances and qualities; and, while I shall freely communicate the *general impressions* made on my mind, by what I have witnessed and heard, during my perambulations through part of the States of New-York, New-Jersey, and Pennsylvania, in the summer and autumn of 1822, it is not my intention, on this hackneyed subject, to exemplify my own patience, or put that of others to the test, by treading in the battered footsteps of road-surveying journalists, and filling up interstices with well-frittered incidents: however, although it is my wish to avoid the useless labour of repeating what has been sufficiently noticed by others, having neither opportunity nor inclination for ransacking the multifarious publications concerning America, it is very probable that I may unwittingly stumble upon facts already reiterated to satiety.

So far as statistical information is concerned, I am not aware that there is much discrepance either between the various authors or between their accounts and the present circumstances and aspect of the country: the population of towns and states, the value of land and prices of its produce, which are ever changing, must necessarily vary with the periods in which they are particularized. Where the manners, customs, and condition of the people are the subjects of discussion, the circles of society to which the writers had access, their particular prejudices and opportunities for observation, may have furnished different views of the same subject; but generosity forbids the ascribing partial contradictions to any other motives in their respective authors, than a candid expression of individual judgment.

Miss Frances Wright, "an English-woman," author of "Views of Society and Manners in America," in her *modest* zeal for exalting the country and people of the North American Republic, above the land of her nativity and its inhabitants, makes the following strictures upon an English-

man, who had preceded her in travelling in, and publishing his observations on, the United States: “ I must, in justice to the benevolent community of Philadelphia, advert to a writer who has been raised into consideration by the importance of his commentators. It was perhaps not possible, that the authors of a much read English journal, should be able to detect the *false statements* of the English traveller they reviewed. Mr. Fearon has given an account of a vessel in this port, calculated, from the seeming minuteness of its details, to gain implicit credit. The ship *Bubona*, which *he says* he boarded, and describes as being overloaded with wretched Germans, he informs the English public, was an American, commanded by an American, and belonging to Americans. The *Bubona*, *I* regret to *say*, was a British brig, from the port of Sunderland, navigated and commanded by our countrymen, and having British owners. I request you to communicate these particulars to your friend ***** , who will judge from this specimen how far the ‘Sketches’ of Mr. Fearon have been drawn by an accurate pencil.”

It may perhaps be deemed ungallant rudeness in me, to place a gentleman's *ipse dixit* in the same balance with a lady's; but while I admit it to be perfectly possible that Mr. Fearon might have boarded "a British brig," and imagined himself to be on board "an American," I cannot help considering it to be at least equally possible (and, unacquainted as I am with the justice of Miss Wright's claims to a superiority of intuitive discrimination, or means of veritable retrospective information, to me it does appear rather more probable), that some patriotic apologist has gallantly drawn upon her complaisant credulity. I have been led to notice Miss Wright's *illiberal insinuations*, founded on this alleged "false statement," from the circumstance of having, previous to my visiting America, been quite fascinated with her enchanting "Views," but of having afterwards had auricular evidence and ocular demonstration, that Mr. Fearon's "Sketches" have been delineated more from real life.

"How far the 'Views' of Miss Wright have been drawn by an accurate pencil," the impartial inquirer "will judge from the following Specimen:"—"I ought not to omit a remark, not merely upon the

elegance of the *dress* of these young gay creatures [New-York ladies], but what is far better, on its *modesty*. It may be sometimes more showy and costly than is wise or befitting in the daughters of a republic, but it *never mocks at decency, as does that of our English ladies*, who truly have often put me to the blush for their sex and their nation.—Let me, however, observe, of the young women here [Philadelphia], as I before observed of those of New-York, that, though they may be decked in the flaunting silks of France and the Indies, *their dress is always arranged with womanly modesty; the bosom never forgets its screen, nor are the ankles and arms exposed*, to court every idle gaze, and bring into discredit the morals of the nation.’’

With the most profound deference to Miss Wright’s superior knowledge of the connection that subsists between a lady’s habiliments and the purity of her thoughts, I “modestly” submit my opinion, that the English ladies, in *occasionally exposing* part of *their charms*, are actuated by precisely the same motives, that a great proportion of the American ladies are, in *uniformly concealing their lack of them*. Instead of giving “the daughters of the Republic”

so much credit for superior "modesty" and respect for "the morals of the nation," Miss Wright had used "her pencil" much more faithfully, had she attributed their vestal concealment of a greater number of square inches of their skin than is fashionable in England, to the cause known to every American child capable of walking out of doors, that, in summer and autumn, unless properly "screened" from the sun, in less than half an hour, the smoothest skin, of European hue and texture, will become a scorched mass of painful blisters; and that, in winter, a very opposite sensation equally ensures the "screening of bosoms, ankles, and arms."

Miss Wright might, with equal propriety, so far as motives are concerned, have adduced as a proof of exemplary "modesty," the common practice of the young ladies of New-York, during the bathing season, of getting their male acquaintances to accompany them in the evenings to the Hudson river, that by bathing in sight of and near each other, their "womanly modesty" may not run the risk of being put to the blush, by receiving the aid of undressed stranger gentlemen, at a time when themselves are rather imperfectly "screened," should they choose to fancy that they are in danger of being drowned, and, *inadvertently by design*, to scream for assistance!

Yet, although it is my opinion that Miss Wright has coloured her "Views" so highly, as scarcely to resemble any of the everyday scenery which attract the notice of ordinary minds, I entertain no doubt but that, equally with Mr. Fearon, she has written the genuine sentiments of her heart: her sex, fortune [I speak from report], and mental accomplishments, evidently placed her in peculiar circumstances for observation, and she has unconsciously given reins to an imagination dilated with ardent enthusiasm in the philanthropic anticipation of the progressing march of human intellect, which must eventually banish ignorance and all her motley train of human woes from the face of the globe, till tyranny and oppression shall exist only in the records of former ages, to heighten, by contrast, the enjoyment of the halcyon days of the universal reign of "peace on earth and good-will to men," the dawn of which, she has travelled and written to show, may be seen, by all who will open their eyes, in the state of society which has resulted [should have resulted] and must result from the admirable *theory* of civil and religious polity adopted by the United States of America.

Having considered it proper to say this much, by way of introduction, I shall now proceed, as briefly as possible, to accomplish the task I have prescribed to myself.

THE climate of North America is apparently more conducive to animal life than that of Britain, if we take into the account the multitude of living creatures with which the air, the earth, and the water is inhabited; but the great extremes of heat and cold, of aridity [*a*] by day and dense vapours by night, of breathless stillness and hurricane fury [*b*], certainly render the sum of human enjoyment, physically considered, much less than in Britain. Lightning and thunder, though the most appalling of nature's operations in any country, in America, where it is peculiarly awful, instead of its approach being contemplated with silent dismay, its astounding blazings and tremendous crashings are hailed as a salutary and providential dispensation, to lower the temperature of the atmosphere, which in summer and autumn tends constantly to become so unpleasantly hot and sultry, as to cause the sweat to ooze in copious streams from every pore, producing a degree of lassitude, which equally enervates body and mind, rendering the smallest attempt at locomotion a most arduous undertaking; while night, the usual period of rest, is one unrefreshing series of slow-passing hours of sleepless tossing and profuse perspiring, although lying almost in a state of nudity.

In travelling in America, although I met not a single funeral, my attention was frequently arrested by the apparent density of defunct citizens in the burying-grounds, of which there is no scarcity, the white marble head-stones being generally so numerous, as to more than rival the stumps in the newly-cleared forest [*c*]; and I have certainly heard of more persons being “down sick,” than I was accustomed to hear of in Scotland, in the same period of time, in proportion to the population [*d*]. It is notorious to the most superficial observer, that the Americans are a lean and sickly-looking people, particularly the females. Let any native of Britain take a walk in New-York or Philadelphia on a Sunday, in the vicinity of any of the Friends’ meeting-houses, at the hour of their entrance or dismissal (I instance the Friends because their females use less artificial decorations), and observe their deathlike countenances, and say, if any thing can be imagined more like what a procession of church-yard deserters might be conceived to exhibit; yet I have seen many old men and old women in America, and some of them apparently older than I recollect of having often seen in Scotland [*e*]. Leaving entirely out of view that most dreadful of local

distempers, the yellow fever, which at present [September 1822] has banished more than one-half of the citizens of New-York from their homes and places of business [*f*], and consigned many to their graves, my conviction is, that the climate of America is not nearly so salubrious for the human species, during the periods of infancy, youth, or puberty, as Britain; but that, for old age, it is at least equally favourable, owing perhaps to the lungs being able to perform their functions with less difficulty in a dry atmosphere such as America enjoys in winter, and in summer while the sun is above the horizon, than they could in a moist, hoar-frost climate such as Britain is subject to in winter. However, it is my decided opinion, that *the whole continent of North America is inimical to the enjoyment of human existence*; and that, were it not for the daily immigration from Europe, America would not have much cause to boast of the unprecedented increase of her population [*g*].

To a British ear, the incessant discordant din, particularly after sunset, of the reptile and insect tribes in America, during the absence of winter, is most annoying; while the silence of every thing comparable to the melodious warbling of the British feathered tribe, rejoicing in the presence of the sun, is but transiently compensated by the superior brilliancy of colour in a few of the birds;

but I cannot subscribe to the accuracy of the remark so often repeated, that "in America the flowers have no smell and the birds no song;" the flowers do emit a smell similar in kind to the same flowers in Britain, although not in degree, owing to the scorching effects of a more vertical sun, which perhaps shines forth with unclouded glare as many days in uninterrupted succession in America as it usually does hours in Britain; and some of the birds do whistle, although they do not chaunt in the sweet flowing notes of the linnet or sky-lark; but because "Rule Britannia" sounds more musical and exhilarating in the ears of a Briton than "Yankee doodle," it does not necessarily follow that the latter is not a tune.

It can scarcely be expected, that so newly civilized a country as North America, will stand a comparison with an old settled country like Britain. New-York Bay, when entered on a fine summer morning, after a dreary voyage across the Atlantic ocean, presents rather an imposing appearance, but upon a nearer inspection of the surrounding objects, the illusion vanishes, the fortresses, shipping, and trees, being all that in any manner realizes the expectation excited by first impressions. The waters of the American rivers, with the exception of the Susquehannah, and some unimportant "creeks," or rivulets, so far as I have seen, are muddy-looking streams,

even in the middle of summer, when many of the grain and saw-mills are standing still for want of rain. The Hudson and the Delaware are indeed noble rivers for the purposes of navigation, the tide flowing up their channels about one hundred and sixty miles; but neither flowing nor ebbing can prevent them from being shrouded in an icy mantle during the long period of an American winter. The Erie Canal, in the State of New-York, is deservedly celebrated for its length; but its width and depth does not surpass the small Canal between Glasgow and Paisley: it is un-navigable for nearly one-half of the year, and were it not for the precaution of drawing off the water at the commencement of winter, the Canal would be so thoroughly frozen as to require a great proportion of the other half to thaw it.

In the wilder parts of the country, log-huts are to be met with, but in general the houses are what are called frame-houses, the frames being neatly boarded without, and lathed and plastered within, with brick fire-places and chimneys; when neatly painted white, as they most frequently are, with green shutters similar to Venetian blinds outside, they look exceedingly smart. Brick houses are not uncommon in the towns, and in Philadelphia and New-York they greatly preponderate. Wherever it is practicable a piazza is attached to one or both sides of each house, to afford an opportunity of lounging in the air without being scorched by the sun. Indeed, the summit of a wealthy citizen's enjoyment in summer and

autumn, seems to consist in duly moistening his clay inwardly, while, to cool and dry it outwardly, he lolls half-naked in a rocking-chair in his lobby, smoking a segar, with the front and back doors wide open, to produce a current of air, they being purposely placed directly opposite. It is no rare thing to see tea-parties thus exposed to the gaze of every by-passer, for the benefit of sitting between two open doors. The working classes, who cannot always attain to the luxury of being fanned between two open doors, have recourse to open windows, and cooling beverages of spirits and water; it being unsafe to drink cold spring water alone, those who imprudently do so, running the risk of paying for their temerity with their life [*h*].

New-York, the most important city in the United States, and, from its being washed on one side by the arm of the sea which separates it from Long Island, and on the other side by the Hudson river, might reasonably be supposed to be also the most cleanly and healthy, will not, if we except its natural situation, its commerce, and its shipping, for one moment, stand a comparison with Edinburgh or Glasgow. Many of its brick buildings are indeed as elegant as red and white paint can render them, and it contains a few of coarse white marble, amongst which the City Hall stands pre-eminent, it being really an elegant building; but, as a whole, New-York can scarcely be said to be more than an overgrown seaport village, in a state of progressive transmutation towards the order and rank of a civilized city. The streets of

New-York are not to be perambulated with impunity by either the lame, or the blind, or the exquisitely sensitive in their olfactory nerves: to use an American phrase, a person must be "wide awake," not to dislocate his ankles by the inequalities and gaps in the side-pavements, or break his legs by running foul of the numberless moveable and immoveable incumbrances with which they are occupied. To attempt to cross a street (Broadway and one or two other streets are perhaps exceptions), requires no small adroitness even in a person who has the use of all his faculties, to steer clear of running carts, dunghills, and roving-commissioned American scavengers, mirebesmeared swine; the latter being confessedly the most effective health-officers of the city, not only by consuming all that they find eatable upon the streets, but by removing a portion of the stagnant gutters, by wallowing therein as often as they find it necessary to cool their frying carcasses [*i*].

Philadelphia, the second city of importance in the Union, is perhaps the most regularly built city in the world, so far as the crossing of streets at right angles is concerned. Its buildings are equal to those of New-York, and its streets are better paved and cleaner, but being farther south and more inland, it is not so well aired in summer, and is most grievously infested with myriads of common house-flies. However, although Philadelphia may stand a comparison with her sister city, New-York, it would require a Philadelphian seriously to compare it with Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Both New-York and Philadelphia have what are called slips formed in their harbours, which are indentations cut into the land for the accom-

modation of a greater quantity of shipping than could be contained in the same space, if only ranged along wharves facing the water. In New-York, the slips run up a considerable way in the centre of buildings, as it were in the middle of streets; and being built or faced up with logs or trees cut to the requisite lengths, allow free ingress and egress to the water, and being completely out of the current of the stream or tide, are little else than stagnant receptacles of city filth; while the top of the wharves exhibits one continuous mass of clotted nuisance, composed of dust, tar, oil, molasses, &c. where revel countless swarms of offensive flies. In short, if putrid air has any effect in generating or fostering yellow fever, the slips, landing-places, and stagnant gutters of New-York, produce as much every warm day (and except in winter there are few cold days), as to render it rather a matter of surprise, that her desolating visitations are not much more frequent and permanent than they actually are [*k*].

On leaving the pebble-paved streets for the country, the greater portion of the roads appear to be more indebted to the drying effects of a burning sun than to the materials with which they are made, the middle of the road being seldom more than a contribution from its sides. To prevent the overwhelming torrents, which pour from the clouds during a thunder-storm, from converting the roads into as many beds of rivulets, ridges resembling long newly-filled graves, are formed across in a slanting direction, to turn the water into the side-gutters, where the roads have been made to ascend or descend hills; which renders travelling in the springless stage-coaches used in America, peculiarly uncomfortable when running quickly down hill, as the passenger must

be constantly on the alert to guard his head from contusions and his neck from dislocation. Sand seems to be the prevailing soil for a long way into the interior, and it certainly excites in a stranger the feeling of wonder, to see trees wantoning in all the varied luxuriance of their several species, and Indian corn, with its sturdy dark-green stem, its twin prolific ears, and spacious leaves, towering its fructifying tassel from eight to twelve feet above the unmixed sand into which it was but lately sown, while ponderous bulbs, under the name of squashes, and melons, and pumpkins, lie swelling and ripening on the surface underneath, and all this under a sun which shines as if determined to burn up every plant. The grass, as might be expected, soon assumes a scorched appearance, unless where protected by the shade of trees; but carrots, parsnips, radishes, and other pot-herbs, grow apace, to a size larger than is perhaps common in Britain, at least in Scotland. To the eye of a Briton, the absence of the wild daisy, or Scotch gowan, bespangling the grass, presents a kind of inhospitable blank; and never is the scene relieved by the sight of the nursery-maid or mother, with her young charge, reclining on the well-trod meadow, to drink the frothy milk fresh from the cow at morn or eve; besides the sun's too fervid rays, the superabundance of snakes, and frogs, and other local vermin, forbid such rural recreation; nor is heath or broom to be seen adorning the mountain's brow, or hawthorn

fence, in spring perfuming with its fragrant clustered blossoms, the park, the garden, and the public road; the highest hills equally with the valleys, being completely covered with trees, and the fences rudely formed of lifeless timber. Indeed, America may be appropriately styled *The Land of Trees*, for it seems to be a fact, that wherever cleared land is allowed to lie unoccupied, up springs a forest of young trees.

In so extensive a country as North America, it is natural to suppose, that a great variety will exist in the manners and customs of the people; but there is evidently a great similarity in what are called the middle Atlantic States. So far as I am able to judge, the English language is universally spoken in greater purity than it is in Britain. There are, it is true, a number of Americanisms, which cannot escape the notice of a stranger on his first entering the country; but never have I heard any thing in America like the unintelligible jargon of a native of Lancashire or Yorkshire in England. I also willingly pay my tribute of admiration to the American females, for their exemplary inoffensive "modest" exclamations, universally substituted for those multiform irreverential expletives in vogue in Britain: according to the degree of wonder, approbation, or dislike, meant to be expressed, the phrases are, "Oh my!—Oh my, my!—Oh my, my! well, did you ever?" Drinking spirits and water is the usual practice of both sexes, for quenching the parching thirst occasioned by the summer's

broiling heat and consequent excessive perspiration, and a bottle or bottles containing spirits, a tankard containing water, cooled, if possible, with a piece of ice, and a glass tumbler, is uniformly placed on a table, at the entrance of visitors, who help themselves at pleasure. The climate is the grand excuse at first for the frequency of the practice, but habit generally renders the favourite libations indispensable in all weathers; and the usual practice for men of every station, when absent from home, is, to repair to the bar of the nearest tavern, as often as inclination, time, and the funds are in unison, and, without sitting down, to gulp the allotted potion, and then walk off, unless it be farther necessary and expedient to quaff a segar, when a backward swing on the hind legs of a chair becomes a desideratum. It is, however, reckoned quite indecorous in an American to get drunk, and instances of drunkenness are certainly more rare than in Britain. Profuse perspiration no doubt tends to neutralize the effects of ardent spirits, nor ought the fact to be overlooked, that constant moistening prevents the cask from exhibiting those irregular shrinkings and swellings which take place when only occasionally used as a depository for liquor.

Churches, or meeting-houses, and school-houses, are to be found in town and country in greater abundance in America than in Britain, in proportion to the population; but, according to my judgment, although there are eminent exceptions, in general, neither the American preachers nor teachers are to be compared, in point of official qualifications, with those of Britain: a great proportion of the teachers in the coun-

try are *young women*, and I rather suspect, that not a few of the preachers belong to the recondite species, known in Scotland by the name of *old wives*, whose frames and feelings, and wrestlings and experiences, and backslidings and revivals, furnish edifying spiritual themes [l]. Of the *classical* merits of the literati of America, I do not pretend to be a competent judge: I accidentally witnessed a literary show-off, at what I understood to be the termination, although I will not aver but that it was the commencement, of a session of one of their colleges, where the learned professors, arrayed in all the paraphernalia of office, sat on chairs placed in a semicircle, on an elevated stage properly carpeted, to which the senior students alternately ascended by means of a ladder, near the top of which, on the floor of the honourable arena, sat the humble prompter, who received from each orator as he ascended, the manuscript of his elaborate English, or, as an American would rather say, Columbian oration, to warrant his memory during its delivery. The last but not the least important part of the exhibition, consisted of the ceremonious distribution, by the professors, of a large basketful of learned parchment titles [m]. Having previously heard of their compassionate munificence to untitled foreigners, whose sectarian aberrations had been the tiny reason why the press had been allowed to groan with specimens of their erudite profundity, unacknowledged by legitimate European Rabbies, when I first beheld the profusion of parchment dignities, I foolishly fancied there might be a few to spare for exportation on the present occasion, and I should certainly have required but a hint, to have proffered my services to be the

honoured agent for transmitting to the British side of the Atlantic, a few D. D.'s, or any other of the Rabbinical letters of the Columbian alphabet; but, alas! they had been all bespoken on their own side of the water, and I left the assembly without having one particle of useful knowledge in my head, or republican distinction in my pocket, more than I possessed when I entered. However, my literary curiosity being aroused, I had an opportunity soon afterwards of ascertaining, that the American professors are possessed of qualifications fully as essential as that of telling the name given to Indian corn by grandsire Adam, and its subsequent transmigrations by his Babel-confounded sons, by witnessing a learned President, or Principal, who occupied the chief house in the vicinity of the scene of his academical labours, conveying the said corn, which had been literally translated into meal, in bags upon his back, from a cart opposite the gate which led to his house, to the garner prepared for its reception contiguous to his kitchen.

Of the literature of the labouring classes in America, it being, as in other countries, but little, little need be said; reading, writing, a few of the initiatory rules of arithmetic, and perhaps a smattering of geography, being all that they pretend to, and more than they have much opportunity of exercising. Up with or before the sun, and toiling, and sweating, and drinking, through the whole of summer and autumn till he goes down, little leisure or ability is left for reading. A cursory glance on a newspaper at the bar of a tavern, appear to be almost the only means in use by which grown-up persons, especially those who reside in the country, retain the art of reading acquired in their youth: nor is the "church-going population" any great exception in this respect, even on Sundays,

for almost none use books, except those who are paid for doing so, few of the congregation thinking of joining in the singing more than of assisting the preacher. Indeed, the hands, and time, and attention of the females are completely engaged with their fans; nor are the males much less busily employed with their hats or handkerchiefs; and it is easy to imagine, that, in winter, the hands of both sexes require too much muffling, to be very nimble in turning over the leaves of books. Perhaps Catholics and Episcopalians are exceptions during the time of their religious performances, but not having been in any of their churches in America, I am not certain.

Whether it is owing to the absence of those relics of a barbarous age, which still obtain in Britain, *the laws of primogeniture and entail*, with their subsidiary political and ecclesiastical ramifications, or to some obvious or inexplicable physical causes, I shall leave to the solution of learned professors of moral philosophy, but the degrading employment of *vagrant begging* seems not to be at all in repute in America, except amongst the uncivilized and dissipated Indians and their squaws. Nowhere, I believe, within the territory of the United States, are to be seen those extremes of affluence and misery, which in the larger towns of Britain alternately obtrude upon the notice of those whose lot has happily been cast alike distant from either; nor is the traveller ever annoyed by the avaricious cringing of waiters, or the gratuitous demands of ignoble-minded drivers. Nevertheless, it is not to be concealed, that there are not wanting persons in America, whose countenances, and garments, and dwellings, give evidence of any thing but comfortable existence. The conjecture is not unwarranted by appearances, that the amount of property possessed by a considerable proportion of the American

working classes, is beneath the reach of the law, at least of the law of the State of New-York, landlords as well as other creditors, I have been informed, being obliged to leave unsequestered and untouched in every house, a bed and bedding for every two members of the family, a table, and for every individual, a chair, a plate, a knife and fork, a bowl, a tea-cup and saucer, a table and tea-spoon, &c. few perhaps having the full allowed complement.

Every citizen of the United States, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, unless exempted by bodily infirmity, or on account of holding some official situation, or of professing Quaker principles, is subject to be called out for a few days annually, for the purpose of military training. As every individual turns out in the dress he happens to wear at the time, the motley assemblage presents rather an unsoldier-like appearance. From want of practice, they are not over-expert in performing military evolutions, and would have but little chance of maintaining their ground, if opposed in an open country to the superior manœuvring of an equal force of regular troops; but in their woody country, they would not be long of annihilating any foreign hostile army, which should attempt to penetrate into the interior, as almost every man has been accustomed from his youth to the use of fire-arms, and can boast of his squirrel-shooting feats in "the bush [*n*]."

While the Americans look with a sensitive jealousy upon the conduct of every man in authority, they highly venerate their system of government [*o*]. The privilege of voting in the election of their legislators, identifies the citizens with every legislative enactment, and induces a kind of parental solicitude over the welfare of the commonwealth, which renders no overawing military force necessary to preserve internal tranquillity, thus superseding the expense of keeping a larger army on foot in time of peace than is necessary to guard the public prisons and garrison the fortresses. But an unqualified extension of the elective franchise, however equitable it may appear in theory, like all other extremes, may occasionally produce, in practice, more harm than good. In every

community, there is a numerous class, whose circumstances in life have precluded them from acquiring even the limited information which would have been desirable for the prudential and advantageous regulation of their own conduct; and it is not to be expected, that ignorance will be less prejudicial, when concentrated and directed to the management of public affairs, than when confined to the management or rather mismanagement of their individual concerns. In proportion to a man's natural and acquired abilities and behaviour, in general, is his situation in society; and in exact proportion to men's ignorance, is their liability to be guided by blind prejudice, and to be made the troublesome tools of unprincipled or querulous demagogues. I have been misinformed, if these observations are not verified in the case of the city of New-York, where, if a magistrate were to attempt to enforce the repairing of a portion of a decayed side-pavement, or the removal of a public nuisance, which might cost any of his fellow-citizens the one-fourth of a dollar, unless he were able to defend his official conduct by a yellow fever argument, or some other reason equally potent, he would be in imminent danger of being vehemently proscribed as an aspiring tyrant, of Holy Alliance principles, who *must* be ousted. The effect of this unqualified popular accountability is, that the magistrate who respects his office, or rather values his salary (every public officer in America being entitled to a stipulated remuneration), is obliged to shut his eyes against necessary improvements, and to leap over nuisances with the majority of his "well-enough" constituents.

It is rather a nice question, to decide, whether Britain or America be the most eligible country to reside in, considered merely in a pecuniary and political point of view; much must depend on a person's habits, particular circumstances, temperament of mind, and political opinions. In America, the agriculturist, who is owner of the soil he cultivates, may, by unceasing industry and economy, manage to drudge along through life, without being a burden on others; but, so far as I could learn, he has fully as obscure a prospect of attaining independent affluence

and ease as the husbandman in Britain, whose yearly rent and other unavoidable expenses, leave him little more than a continuance of liberty to toil for his daily subsistence; while he whose land is held on lease, or, being nominally his own, is mortgaged, which is the case with a great majority of the American farmers, has nothing between his possessions and a sheriff's sale, but the selfish caprice of his landlord or mortgagee, who may legally order him to "clear out right away," and hide himself in the woods with the Indians and snakes [*p*]. In the interior, almost the only expedient an American farmer has to raise a little money annually, is, by felling the timber he finds on his land, and, cutting it up into barrel-staves, joists, boards, shingles, or for whatever else the wood is adapted, to carry it to the nearest stream, there to build a raft, on which, with an assistant or two in the capacity of steersmen, he floats with the current, when the falling of rain or the melting of the snow at the commencement of summer affords a sufficiency of water, perhaps for hundreds of miles, to some seaport town, and to sell his wooden adventure for whatever the lumber-merchants choose to give; after which, himself and assistants must find their way home by land in the best manner they can, after an absence perhaps of weeks.

In Britain, a labourer or artizan receives a less sum weekly than in America, but from the comparative mildness of the climate, his bodily wants are not nearly so great, and, of course, are more easily supplied; and his year of productive labour consists of at least eleven or twelve months; whereas, in America, for some occupations, it will not average above seven or eight, owing to the severity of the winter. In the former country, the stipulated remuneration for labour of every description is paid in money; but in the latter, the general practice is, with partial exceptions in some of the principal towns, an order upon some particular store,

as every huckster's shop is pompously styled, with whom the employer is in terms of understanding; and not unfrequently, the store is partly or wholly owned by the employer. But of all the classes of artizans whose situation has come within my notice, the weaver is subjected to the greatest inconvenience and loss; for, in place of a direct order upon a storekeeper, he receives from his *bos* [master] a piece of the cloth he has woven, at a certain valuation: he must then repair with his cloth to a general store or barter-shop, and sell it for as much as he can; and it is said to be a case of rather rare occurrence, if he obtains more than two-thirds of the price for which he received it, and very frequently he will not receive much more than the one-half, as the storekeeper knows he must sell to procure subsistence; but for whatever price he sells his cloth, he must accept of payment in store-pay, that is, in such articles as the storekeeper has on sale, and at the storekeeper's own prices, which are, in general, fully one-third higher when his goods are disposed of in barter, than when sold for cash. If my information has been correct, the American country storekeeper is unquestionably a personage much more to be deprecated by the working classes than the British tax-gatherer. The tax-gatherer is restricted in his exactions by Act of Parliament, while the storekeeper, acknowledging no rule but his own cupidity, unsparingly lays under contribution, the incomings and the outgoings of all within his grasp.

The allegation is perhaps not unfounded in fact, that simple theft is of much more frequent occurrence in Britain than in America; but, if there be sufficient cause for the frequent cautionary admonitions given to Europeans upon their entering the Republic, by friendly countrymen, who have been taught by experience, either in their own cases or in that of their neighbours, to beware how they enter into any bargains or pecuniary transac-

tions with the Americans, otherwise they may have cause to repent of their simplicity, by discovering, when too late, that they have been *yankee'd*, it may be, of their last dollar,—it cannot be disputed, that the oily-tongued knave who would deceive persons to their ruin, is a far more dangerous member of society than the characterless unpretending thief. An open-hearted plain *John Bull* or unsuspecting *Sawney*, is very apt to startle at such republican exhibitions of *liberty*, as that of seizing every opportunity to overreach one's neighbour, because, forsooth, one's neighbour enjoys the same *liberty*, and it is his own fault if he do not at least exercise the *liberty* of suspecting every man to be a rogue!

It is exceedingly questionable, if the man of moderate fortune will find it equally desirable to live in America as in Britain. It is true, that, with the exception of requiring payment annually of a few necessary local taxes, the Government of America will allow him the uncontrolled disposal of his entire income; he may, for aught Government cares, ride or walk, keep servants or serve himself, live in a large house or a small one, admit the light of the sun or shut it out, burn his tallow or eat it, convert his barley into malt or grind it into meal, shoot partridges or butterflies; in short, if he retires into the forest, he may live almost unnoticed or unknown, paying little or no tribute to any, save the sun and the mosquitoes in summer, and the frost and the snow in winter. But if he wishes to enjoy the comforts of a temperate atmosphere, social intercourse, or literary entertainment, Britain is the country he must prefer. If gain be the summum bonum of his desires, he may, as others have done, make well out in America, by lending money at a high rate of interest to needy farmers who are owners of land, upon which he will receive a mortgage, always using due precaution lest there be any previous incumbrance in existence, and that the land be worth at least treble the amount of the money to be advanced; then by timously foreclosing the mortgage, and obtaining a sheriff's warrant to sell the property at auction, cash being an article which few possess, he may purchase it himself, for little more than what is necessary to redeem his mortgage and pay expenses: thus he will have land to sell to the next

adventurer, who shall arrive with a quantity of dollars in his pocket, to advance in part payment; another mortgage will secure the remainder of the purchase-money, and, in due time, a repetition of the foreclosing process again dissolve the connection, and the land once more become the weekly theme of a flourishing advertisement, to catch another dupe. Thus may the man of moderate fortune add farm to farm, and dollar to dollar, till yellow fever, or some other of Death's Columbian constables unceremoniously give him notice instantly to quit. But if he should have the least tincture of prejudice in favour of the Golden Rule, he had better avoid being led into temptation, by fixing his abode in Britain.

As for the man of independent fortune, he has little inducement to cross the Atlantic, unless it be to gratify his curiosity, or to confirm his good resolutions in favour of the virtue of humility, by daily associating at the same table with his "helps," and sedulously setting them an example of industry in their most menial occupations.

That slavery should be suffered to exist in a country, whose citizens exult in their being the only people on earth who really "enjoy the blessing of freedom," and, in a pre-eminent degree, "possess the cardinal qualities of intelligence and industry," and who, annually, on the 4th of July, in the celebration of their national independence, cause publicly to be read from the pulpit, in every town and almost every village throughout the Union, that "they hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created *equal*; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are *life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*; and that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the *consent* of the governed:"—that "the bitter cup of slavery," still barbarously mingled with all its revolting nature-shocking ingredients, should continue to be *freely* administered in the modern liberty-and-equality Republic [q], by the ostentatious professors of such *ne plus ultra* liberal sentiments, is one of those anomalies soluble only by the common truism, that theory and practice are not unfrequently the antipodes of human conduct. Even in those States

which have abolished slavery, and have in words nobly declared, that "It is not for us to inquire why, in the creation of mankind, the inhabitants of the several parts of the earth were distinguished by a difference in feature or complexion, it is sufficient to know, that all are the work of an Almighty hand,"—in effect, the degradation of slavery still exists. In Philadelphia, where, if any where to be found, non-conformity to the prevailing customs of a "vain-glorious age," might be expected to predominate, under the patronage of the exteriorly-humble community of Friends, the African, in vain, may shade his sable countenance under a hat of sufficiently contrite stature and extensive brim, and wear a neckless coat of a certain colour, and never, "for sake of thrift," defile his garments with a metal button, and square his every word and gesture by the spirit-breathed rules of the inward light, as manifested to certain not-to-be-disobeyed unhireling guides; or he may preach, pray, and sing, by night and by day with the Methodists, till he crows for breath like a child in the hooping-cough;—all his efforts will be in vain: he may live and die in the hope of associating with *white spirits* in heaven, but never can he expect to be allowed to sit at the same table with *white bodies* on earth! Having neglected to carry my razors with me, on my visit to Philadelphia, I had occasion to enter a barber's premises, and was, of course, very graciously received by a sable professor of the polite art; when he commenced the operation, and his assistant, also of sable hue, advanced, and began to put the air in motion with a feather-constructed fan, to cool my face and put to flight the carnivorous American flies, I felt no small difficulty in preventing my risible muscles from destroying the necessary composure of my chin. I was curious to know, if his countrymen were also honoured with a fanning while he polished their wool? but he gravely told me, that "were he to allow a coloured person to enter his door, all his white customers would forsake him!"

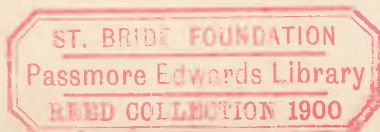
Besides this universal invidious distinction independent of moral worth or external circumstances, the States who have avowedly renounced slavery, are still partially exposed to its inhumanizing effects: if scenes like the following are not to be seen on every public road, they frequently meet the eye in the public newspapers. The Statesman of 10th October, extracts from the Delaware Gazette, "the following picture of some of the horrors of

slavery:—‘A gentleman, whose veracity may be depended on, coming lately from Ohio to visit his friends in this neighbourhood, met, on the United States turnpike road, *several* gangs, or droves as they may be called, of negro slaves, on their way to Wheeling, on the Ohio river, where they take boat, and are transported to the south and south-west States. In *one* drove, there was, he thinks, about 150: the men were secured by a long chain, to which they were severally linked on each side, in which situation they had to eat and drink; the women and children were suffered to run without being chained. Some of the elderly men appeared very much dejected, no doubt recollecting the friends and connections they had left behind, never to be seen again.’” An American writer, addressing his fellow-citizens on the “evils of slavery,” abstaining from any remarks on its inhumanity, makes the following pertinent observations on its impolicy:—“There will always exist a state of hostility between the *oppressor* and the *oppressed*, and nothing but fear will be able to keep the latter in subjection to the former. This point appears to be conceded by the people of the South themselves, who have been compelled to resort to a system of terror and bloodshed to keep the slave population in awe. The boasted kindness of the master towards his slave, and the attachment of the latter to the hand that binds his chains, have been considered insufficient to ensure the safety of the white population. The moment, therefore, that the blacks get an idea of their superiority in point of numbers and strength, over those who hold them in bondage, endless scenes of conspiracy, violence, and mutual destruction, must be expected to ensue. In the last twenty years, the white population of the slave-holding States has increased fifty-five per cent, while the slaves in the same States have augmented sixty-seven per cent, giving a relative increase of the latter over the former of twelve per cent. In this estimate free persons of colour, who form a numerous body, are not included. As importation of slaves has been strictly prohibited, the causes which have operated for the last twenty years may fairly be supposed to continue in an augmented ratio. In several of the States the blacks already out-number the whites. South Carolina has an excess of more than thirty thousand, Louisiana of five or six thousand, and in Virginia the balance in favour of the white population is small. The physical power of the South

will therefore soon be on the side of the blacks; and nothing will be wanting but a knowledge of the fact, and a disposition to avail themselves of it. It is unreasonable and improbable to suppose, that intelligent, ambitious, and adventurous leaders will not be found, with sufficient talents to project conspiracies, persuade others to enrol themselves under their standard, and carry their plans into execution. Several plots have already come nigh being successful, and when they shall become frequent, and managed by more skilful conspirators, it would be almost a miracle if all of them should be detected and suppressed."

Many of the late emigrants from Scotland to Canada, having crossed Lake Ontario, are to be found scattered up and down through the north-western district of the State of New-York. Disliking the hardships and privations attendant upon subduing the Canadian forest, they had hoped to find a haven of comparative ease and comfort among the citizens of the Republic; but although those of them who have been so fortunate as to find employment, are able, by an industrious application of their various mechanical acquirements, to earn nominally more money weekly than they could previously to their crossing the Atlantic, they have found, that it is fully as difficult a task to get one month's earnings ahead of poverty as it was in Scotland; while they are secluded from all those sources of enjoyment which home afforded, and which, as the prospect of ever being able to return recedes from their contemplation, lives more vividly in their remembrance, as the venerated land of their sires, the land of personal comfort—of personal safety—of personal liberty,—the scene of their juvenile pastimes, where their frames expanded in healthful vigour, and their buoyant spirits first panted after the attainment of the privileges of maturity, and where they had once cherished the hope, that, after having honourably finished their course, they would have been peacefully gathered to their fathers, that, in the morning of the resurrection, they should not be awanting to complete the kindred circle, and participate in the unspeakably felicitous assemblage of death-divided friends, met—never more to sever.

It appears to me to be a matter of doubtful policy (for it is not an act of humanity) in the British Government, to countenance the emigration of British subjects to Canada. I have heard it asserted, although I cannot vouch for its accuracy, that at least one-half of those who annually arrive in Canada pass into the United States, carrying with them, of course, the practical knowledge of all the useful inventions and improvements of British ingenuity. Even supposing they were to remain for life in the unhealthy wilds of Canada, of what advantage can it possibly be to Britain? If it be true, as is currently alleged, that the whole expense of the Canadian government, is paid out of the taxes raised in Britain, the greater the amount of its population, the greater will be the



sum necessary for its maintenance; and the Americans talk as if they are waiting, without anxiety, till it be sufficiently fostered by Britain to be worth having, when they expect to have the honour of taking it under their special protection, as another State of the rising Republic.

My opportunities for observation have been too limited, to enable me to decide upon the practical merits of the American system of government, as compared with that of Britain. Were I to hazard an opinion, I should say, that so far as the legislative branches are comparable, the American popular mode of electing members of Congress, is preferable to the British unpopular mode of nominating members of Parliament, as obviating the only rational incentive to political discontent and disaffection. "It is only in the United States," observes an American writer, "that a genuine representation exists. What we see in the most enlightened states of Europe is but a feeble approximation. The legislative bodies there, though respectable in point of talent, are, properly speaking, but a kind of drags or incumbrances, hung on the machine of monarchy to equalize its motions. Their connection with the mass of the nation is very small; and they are much more efficient in raising taxes, and in supporting and enforcing the designs of the executive, than in checking its misconduct, or protecting public freedom." But it scarcely admits of dispute, that the permanent rank of majesty in Britain, gives greater stability to the body politic, than it would possess were the executive power hired out by estimate every four years, to the most obsequious and needy contractor, to the unavoidable chagrin and disappointment of a whole host of contending expectants, whose wounded pride and envy might prompt them secretly to work at cross purposes with their successful rival, and to accuse *him* of "fantastic tricks," who, yesterday their equal, struts forth to-day, "dressed in a little brief authority[r]." The dignity of majesty, and even of nobility, is supposed to be too exalted to be within the contagious influence of mercantile chicanery; their honour is understood to be their lawgiver, therefore, whoever would be really noble, must study in word and deed to be honourable[s]. Thus may a beneficial influence be exercised upon the inferior classes of society. I may be wrong, but I cannot otherwise account for the fact, that, in America, where the legislative system is alleged to be nearly theoretically perfect, and the whole frame-work of government too new to have afforded time for an accumulation of corruption, the general practice of the people should give occasion for the unrefuted charge of a deficiency of honourable principle [t]; while, in Britain, where the system has had sufficient time for the introduction of corruption in the administration of public affairs, the great body of the people feel a pride in meriting the estimation of the world, by maintaining their integrity.

THE preceding "GLEANINGS" having been originally written in America, for the private information of Friends in Scotland, the writer has judged it proper, in submitting them to the more impartial perusal of the Public, to add the following quotations, corroborative of opinions therein advanced, from a few American newspapers, given him by an acquaintance the day previous to his sailing for England, for the purpose of occasionally affording entertainment during the voyage.

[a] "We have lately had occasion to remark, personally, in the course of a journey southward, by land, the condition of things from *aridity* and *disease*; and we found it truly distressing."—*Statesman, New-York, Sept. 16, 1822.*

[b] "The Richmond Enquirer of the 7th instant, in noticing the effects of the late hurricane in North Carolina, states, that the mail-stage was unable to travel, and two persons who were in it, were compelled to take a stage-horse each, the driver another, and the mail was placed on the fourth; but so seriously was the road obstructed by the fallen trees, that it took them two days to travel thirty miles. Another gentleman travelling on another road in North Carolina, was eight hours in going eleven miles. And an intelligent gentleman from Raleigh, states, that in the direction of Fayetteville, nearly one-half of the trees are supposed to have been bent or prostrated."—*Gazette, New-York, October 12, 1822.*—"The village of Hackensack was visited last Saturday evening with a most destructive hail-storm. It came from the north-west accompanied with violent wind, and swept almost every thing before it. Some of the hail-stones measured four inches in circumference, and all the glass in the court-house, church, and dwelling-houses, exposed to its fury, were broken into atoms. It is calculated that 10,000 panes of glass were broken in the neighbourhood. Its range was about three miles wide, and it passed off in a south-east direction. The fields of buckwheat, cabbages, fruit, &c. were cut to pieces and totally destroyed."—*Statesman, New-York, September 19, 1822.*

[c] "The committee to whom was referred the resolution of the Board of Health, directing them to inquire into the expediency of regulating or preventing the interment of the dead in Trinity Church-yard, during the present epidemic, respectfully report:—That they have ascertained from the return of the sexton of Trinity Church, that there have been buried

in Trinity Church-yard, since the 1st of May last, one hundred and forty-seven persons. Your committee have also ascertained, from sources on which they think implicit reliance may be placed, that the yard of that church is at times offensive to persons in its vicinity; and that in the evenings, especially, the exhalations are such as perhaps to be dangerous to the health of the citizens in its immediate neighbourhood. Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—1st, That no grave be opened or dug in Trinity Church-yard, until the further order of the Board of Health, under the penalty of one hundred dollars. 2d, That any sexton, or other person, who shall permit any burial in the said yard, in violation of the above resolution, or assist in opening or digging any grave there, shall be liable to the said penalty, to be recovered by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the city of New-York, before any court having jurisdiction thereof. 3d, That in case any vault shall be opened in the yard of Trinity Church, during the warm season, for the interment of any person, it be and hereby is recommended to the citizens not to follow it into the yard.”—*Statesman, New-York, August 15, 1822.*

[d] “A letter to the editors from a gentleman in *Philadelphia*, states, that ‘the prevailing fevers have carried distress into all, and the horrors of death into many of the families in the vicinity of that city. Last year, the sickness about *Philadelphia* and in the lower part of *Jersey*, was alarming, but not to be compared to the present season. Dr. S—— [a physician at *Moorestown, New-Jersey*, nine miles from *Philadelphia*] then had, at one period, *eighty patients*. He now has, *one hundred and twenty* down with the bilious and intermittent fevers. In *Salem county*, the distress is yet greater than about *Moorestown*. I am told, that on the banks of the *Delaware* and *Schuylkill*, in many families there are not enough well persons to attend on the sick.’”—*Gazette, New-York, October 12, 1822.*——

“In *Gloucester* and *Salem counties, New-Jersey*,” says the *Bridgeton Whig*, “bilious remittent fever, and dysentery, with other diseases, generally prevail. The editor of that paper ‘was lately informed by a physician, that there were hardly as many well in *Gloucester county*, as were necessary to nurse the sick.’—The editor of the *Salem Messenger* remarks: ‘From the ill-health of all in this office, with the fever and ague, which permits us to follow our avocations less than half the time, we have been obliged to place the advertisements of the outside form in the inner one.’ The bilious remittent fever and fever and ague, prevails very bad at this time, in this county: we understand from the doctors that they have never known so much of it at any time before.”—*Spectator, New-York, September 20, 1822.*

[e] "In Montgomery township, Montgomery county, in a population of less than a thousand, six old neighbours recently died, within a few days of each other, whose united ages amount to 455.—On Sunday 29th Sept. 1822, Peter Evans, aged 86. On Tuesday, 1st Oct. David Bruner, aged 92. On Thursday, 3d Oct. John Mather, aged 76, and Thomas Humphreys, aged 56. On Friday, 4th Oct. Thomas Bates, aged 72. And, on Saturday, 5th Oct. Jacob Crater, aged 73."—*Gazette, New-York, October 12, 1822.*

[f] Our readers at a distance, who are acquainted with the city of New-York, as it appears at ordinary seasons, will doubtless feel some curiosity to know how it looks, while labouring under the calamity of a pestilence. Beginning, then, with what is called the infected district, which was the source, and is as yet the principal seat of the pestilence, you see the wharves from about Fulton-street, on the North River, to the Battery, entirely stripped of its shipping, no boats plying along the solitary shore, the stores and houses fronting the river all closed, and the dead silence which reigns through this region, unbroken by the hum of industry, or the cheerful bustle of business. It is said, indeed, that one old lady, possessing more valour than discretion, still resolutely remains in her house, within the original infected district, having supplied herself with provisions for a long residence, and disputing the empire over these deserted dominions, with the cats and rats, who are her only neighbours. She sometimes, perhaps, during the night, hears the footsteps of the watchman, walking his lonely round; but probably oftener, the silent tread of the thief, whom even 'the pestilence, that walketh in darkness, and wasteth at noon-day,' cannot deter from the commission of the most wanton depredations, at the imminent hazard of his own life. From the Battery up the East River, to Fulton-street, some gleanings of population and business yet remain, no case of fever having yet appeared on this side of the town. Several stores are still open in South-street, and a few in Water-street; but our readers can judge how generally the lower part of the city has been deserted, when they are informed that the estimate of population south of Fulton-street, which it will be recollected extends from river to river, is short of 3,000. The ordinary population is probably not far from 30,000, making the number of emigrants about 27,000. The streets in the vicinity of the Battery, Broadway as far up as the Park, with the parallel and transverse streets, from river to river, comprising one of the most wealthy, and in ordinary seasons the most healthy and delightful portions of the city, now wear the solitude of the desert, and appal the heart with their loneliness. 'The sound of the church-going bells' is unheard from Trinity, St. Paul's, and the other churches in the district; and the voice of pleasure, as well as the din of business, is mute."—*Statesman, New-York, September 5, 1822.*

[g] "The newspapers of *New-York, Maryland, and other States*, as well as those of the interior of *Pennsylvania*, complain of the deleterious effects of the long drought upon the fields, and the health of the inhabitants. The

want of water is every where felt in the country; intermittent and bilious fevers and dysentery prevail to an extent without example over almost the whole surface."—*Statesman, New-York, September 16, 1822.*

[h] Last evening a dead man was carried past this office to his late dwelling in Strawberry-Alley, where, but a few hours before, in perfect health, he had left a wife and five children. This unfortunate man took a drink of cold water, at the corner of Shipping and Fifth-streets, and almost instantly fell a lifeless corpse.—*Democratic Press, Philadelphia, July 22, 1822.*

[i] "No attempt, it is to be hoped, will be made to supply New-York with water, until it shall be undertaken on a great and liberal scale, and improvements, in the construction of docks, and in the paving of streets, should also be made on a permanent plan: even a want of money should be no objection to the projection of permanent and expensive works. A deficiency of funds may be supplied by loans—money judiciously expended is not lost, and it is better to burden the future millions who are to come after us, with taxes, than to bequeath them an inheritance of pestilence and barbarism."—*Statesman, New-York, August 12, 1822.*—"Yesterday was one of the most unfavourable days for the health of the city that we have had the present season. It was intensely warm, the air close and murky, frequently alternating with showers and sunshine. The heat of the sun, acting upon the filth of our streets, and the exhalations constantly rising and loading the atmosphere, seemed sufficient to destroy the health of the city, had no sickness previously existed. It is now perhaps unsafe to meddle with many of the nuisances, as they are generally of that description spoken of by Sancho; and all that can at present be done, is to note them down for attention after the cool weather has commenced."—*Statesman, New-York, August 19, 1822.*

[k] "On the appearance and continuance of yellow fever in the city of New-York, a Correspondent, in support of his belief in its animalcular cause, thus writes:—"A nest of insects is brought in a vessel and landed, or perhaps they are generated from some putrescent matter already there; they continue to breed pursuant to the ordinary course of nature, until checked by some extraneous cause; they possess volition, and the power of locomotion. Let us examine the ordinary habits of insects. As they increase in number, they leave the hive, and spread around in every direction equally, provided there be nothing that attracts them to any one point. Now, does not this agree with the fact, that the disease has advanced at nearly the same rate in every direction from Rector-street, where it this season commenced? A moderate wind does not affect the situation of insects on the wing, relatively with the earth: any one who doubts this, may be convinced by observing flies sporting in the front of a confectionary store [shop], or under a tree; the same thing may be observed of fish in a running stream. We know that most animals have an instinctive knowledge of the approach of a storm, and take shelter from its violence. Is this not a rational way to account for the fact, that the disease is not affected by the wind? A black frost kills the whole brood, and no fever subsequently appears. Acid fumigations, lime, and other substances, which, it is said, have been used with success, destroy animal life. There is one thing which I have omitted to notice, and that is, how these animalcules find their way to the stomach. That the disease is caused by something in the air which does find its way to the stomach, either by nervous communication, or by some other means, no one denies: I am content that my animalcules should find their way, in the same manner as gas or poisonous exhalations. It is next to impossible, indeed, to submit the atmosphere to the power of the microscope, and how else are creatures

too minute to be detected by the naked eye, to be discovered? In almost all matter which comes within the sphere of microscopical observation, millions of living animals have been discovered, so minute, that ten thousand would not cover the space occupied by a single grain of sand. St. Pierre says, in his 'Studies of Nature,' that a single strawberry leaf contains a world in miniature; that there are more living beings on it than there are men, women, and children in the universe. Are not these facts sufficient to lead us to conclude, *a priori*, that the air may also contain these minute beings; or, is an acknowledged defect in the means of discovery, any evidence of their non-existence?"—*Statesman, New-York, October 7, 1822.*

[1] "We have been credibly informed, that a *clergyman* residing in the country, not more than *sixty miles* from New-York, who is a *Doctor of Divinity*, and for whose talents and character we have been led to entertain a high respect, stated publicly from his desk, a few days since, that the yellow fever, was, doubtless, a judgment sent from God upon the inhabitants of this city, in consequence of the opposition manifested by them to the attempts of the *clergy*, something more than a year ago, to prevent what *they* conceived to be a profanation of the sabbath. He spoke openly of the meeting, or *mob*, as it was termed by him, at the City Hall, for the purpose of counteracting the efforts of the clergy.—One of the arguments, if such it may be called, made use of to prove that the meeting at the City Hall has brought a scourge upon our inhabitants, was, we understand, that the fever broke out this year, about the time that the meeting was held last year! It is really lamentable, to see such childish superstition, and such sophistry, united with so much learning. Why did not the act of retributive justice instantly follow the offence, and visit the guilty instead of the innocent—the ring-leaders of the *mob*, and not the women and children, who perhaps never heard of it?"—*Statesman, New-York, September 30, 1822.*—"The distinguished and highly gifted preacher, the Rev. Mr. M*****, has returned once more to this metropolis, and we may soon expect to hear another report of the marvellous things which he accomplished during his last visit to Providence. We shall not now anticipate the reverend preacher's exhibition of the wonder-working providence of God, in the manifold displays of his favour which were bestowed as tokens of divine complacency; but wait till another week, hoping to hear them from the reverend preacher's own mouth,—We expect that he will relate all the particulars of his temptations—how he has been buffeted by Satan—how he has been accused of preaching the sermons of distinguished English clergymen—how he denied the charge, and afterwards acknowledged the truth—how he used to laugh, in his sleeve, when he put his face *into* the ladies' bonnets, to invite them to come to

Jesus—how he has literally practised upon the doctrine of St. Paul, of becoming all things to all men, or rather *all women*—all these things, and many more, equally strange and miraculous, we expect to hear from the reverend preacher himself. If we should be disappointed in these expectations, we shall procure the particulars from some other source (one, perhaps, entitled to quite as much credit), and publish them for the gratification of all those young ladies of Boston, who, overflowing with love, are ready to rush into his arms, and for the comfort of all those silly old women, whether in breeches or in petticoats, who pay their adorations to the man, because—his wife has had twins!—*New England Galaxy, Boston, October 13, 1822.*

[m] “At the last commencement of Yale College, Connecticut, the following list of degrees were distributed:

Bachelor of Arts,	76
Master of Arts,	28
Honorary [not educated at Y. C.] degree of M. A.	2
Doctor of Medicine,	16
Honorary [not educated at Y. C.] degree of M. D.	6
Honorary [not educated at Y. C.] degree of D. D.	2
	<hr/> 130

Spectator, New-York, September 20, 1822.

[n] “The citizens of Columbus county, Ohio, were invited to hunt squirrels on the 8th, 9th, and forenoon of the 10th instant: about 200 attended the invitation, and hunted a part or all of said time. It was ascertained, on counting the scalps, that they had killed the incredible number of 19,660. The greater part were killed by rifles. As some were killed while swimming across rivers and creeks, not all that were killed were produced. *Some individuals killed four or five hundred.* These animals are so numerous, notwithstanding the havoc our ‘backwoods riflemen’ made amongst them last spring, they frequently come into the main street of our town, and afford amusement for our boys and dogs.”—*Statesman, New-York, October 3, 1822.*

[o] “It is known to every one, that out of the thirty-six years which will have elapsed, from the organization of the government, to the completion of Mr. Monroe’s administration, the chief magistracy has been given for thirty-two years of that period to *one State*. Whence this long-continued ascendancy? Is it conceivable in theory, is it true in point of fact, that no other State could furnish men qualified for the presidential chair? And if other States could furnish suitable candidates, how has it happened, that none of them have succeeded? The answers to these questions are obvious:—Precisely such ‘state combinations’ as have unfortunately created so much alarm, and elicited so much patriotism in Probus and other writers, have promoted the views and secured the influence of one part of the country, and kept the other half in political subserviency. After quietly acquiescing in the ascendancy of a particular dynasty for thirty-two years, we are now told, that an attempt of other leading States, to act on the same policy, and, by a unanimity of sentiment, to assume their political rights, will excite local jealousies, establish geographical lines, and endanger the union.—All we have ever asked or

wished, is a proper share of influence in the councils of the nation, and that the honours and emoluments of the first offices, should freely circulate among the great family of sisters."—*Statesman, New-York, August 12, 1822.*

[p] "A western paper asserts, that an estate in that country had lately reverted to the original seller, for the balance of the purchase-money, after more than fifty thousand dollars had been paid of it. And that, in another case, 300 acres of land had been sold by a sheriff for six hundred and five dollars, which land cost twenty dollars an acre when purchased, and on the improvement of which fourteen hundred dollars had been expended."—*Statesman, New-York, September 16, 1822.*

[q] Equality is a term, which, as it regards the human species, and indeed the whole of animated nature, is very imperfectly understood, and, consequently, by the greater part of mankind, very inaptly applied. As it relates to the human species, there has been from the creation as much inequality both in respect to physical and mental power as there has been diversity of features in the faces of men. Indeed it is out of the order of nature, that two human beings should be, in every respect, exactly alike. The *great scale*, as is manifest from the face of creation, is graduated from *nothing* up to *God*. In a political point of view, all men, whether high or low, rich or poor, as it respects the administration of justice and execution of the laws, should be entitled to the equal rights of life, liberty of conscience, and of property, as well as to the rights of office, provided they possess the requisite information and talents to serve their fellow-citizens with ability. They are also entitled to the respect due to their station in society. *Men are in no other respects equal.* Political demagogues, indeed, in order to promote the interest or further the views of themselves and party, have led astray, on this point, the more unthinking portion of mankind; hence, on the score of equality, we find the most ignorant, comparing themselves with the statesman and philosopher, and would think themselves insulted, were their special company rejected. This surely is an abuse of equality. They have not been taught to know that *equality* consists only in those rights which the social compact secures to each individual member. The sources of power in a state of nature are three-fold, viz.—That arising from superior muscular, or physical force—that arising from superior knowledge—and that arising from a combination of these two. Men, therefore, as constituted by the law of nature, are *not equal*, as he who possesses most strength or knowledge, or both, will always subdue the more feeble and weak. But when they consent to be bound by the *laws of the social compact*, they delegate to the rules of their country, for the common good, a great portion of that power and those rights which they had under the law of nature. And this delegation of power, when faction is not concerned, is a certain proof of the inequality of men, inasmuch as muscular strength is brought into subjection and obedience to superior knowledge and worth. Nothing, perhaps, can afford a better illustration of the subject, than the functions and members of the human body. Who would think of associating the muscles of the head and feet, or of feeding himself with his toes while he has fingers? Or of placing his feet on the table where he eats? Who thinks with his heels, or cuts by means of his ears? Has not the God of nature ordained every member to occupy its place and perform its own duty, notwithstanding their inequality? They are, nevertheless, as members of one common body, equally entitled to our care and our protection. Perhaps nothing has done more injury in misleading the multitude, both abroad and at home, than the fashionable phrase of '*All men are free and equal*,' unaccompanied with words of qualification or limitation. It is not true in point of fact; yet it is taken for granted by the many, and adopted without once stopping

to examine whether it is true or not. This false maxim has caused indiscriminate massacre, bloodshed, and confiscation in revolutionary France, and serious and formidable mischiefs both in England and America. The liberty of the press essentially requires, that the publication of truth itself shall be limited by good motives and justifiable ends. The reason of which, is, a plain inference from the nature of things, and the relations of man in society. Otherwise, the press might be an instrument of cruel and wanton sport with the reputation of another, without other object, than mean, or light, or malignant purposes. Such a use of the press is as contrary to its just liberty, as it is to moral duty, and religious obligations."—*New-York Evening Post*.

[7] "Our national affairs are apparently approaching a new crisis.—A rigid investigation of alleged abuses will undoubtedly be prosecuted at the approaching session.—In every point of view, the political events in the United States, for the next two years, will possess unusual interest.—A Chief Magistrate is to be selected from a great number of candidates, who will be rivals and competitors for the office, each of whom will press his claims, and probably find his partisans."—*Statesman, New-York, October 7, 1822*.

[8] The celebrated American author, Mr. Washington Irving, in his work entitled "Bracebridge Hall," thus eloquently expresses himself on the character of "a true nobleman:"—"Brought up, as I have been, in Republican habits and principles, I can feel nothing of the servile reverence for titled rank, merely because it is titled. But I trust I am neither churl nor bigot in my creed. I do see and feel, how hereditary distinction, when it falls to the lot of a generous mind, may elevate that mind to *true nobility*. It is one of the effects of hereditary rank, when it falls thus happily, that it multiplies the duties, and, as it were, extends the existence of its possessor. He does not feel himself a mere individual link in creation responsible only for his brief term of being. He carries back his existence in proud recollection, and he extends it forward in honourable anticipation. He lives with his ancestry, and he lives with his posterity. To both does he consider himself involved in deep responsibility. As he has received much from those that have gone before, so he feels bound to transmit much to those that come after him. His domestic undertakings seem to imply a longer existence than those of ordinary men; none are so apt to build and plant for future centuries, as noble-spirited men who have received their heritage from foregone ages. I can easily imagine, therefore, the fondness and pride with which I have noticed English gentlemen of generous temperaments, but high aristocratic feelings, contemplating those magnificent trees, which rise like towers and pyramids from the midst of their paternal lands. There is an affinity between all natures, animate and inanimate: the oak, in the pride and lustihood of his growth, seems to me, to take its range with the lion and the eagle, and to assimilate in the grandeur of its attributes to heroic and intellectual man. With its mighty pillar rising straight and direct towards heaven; bearing up its leafy honours from the impurities of the earth, and supporting them aloft in free air and glorious sunshine, it is an emblem of what a **TRUE NOBLEMAN** should be: a refuge for the weak—a shelter for the oppressed—a defence for the defenceless; warding off from them the pelting of the storm or the scorching rays of arbitrary power. He who is *this*, is an ornament and a blessing to his native land. He who is *otherwise*, abuses his eminent advantages; abuses the grandeur and prosperity he has drawn from the bosom of his country. Should tempests arise, and he be laid prostrate by the storm, who would mourn over his fall? Should he be borne down by the oppressive hand of power, who would murmur at his fate? 'Why cumbereth he the ground?'"

[9] "Your Committee are decidedly of opinion, that the loss to the Bank upon this debt [ten millions four hundred and eighteen thousand three hundred and six dollars], together with *over-drafts, counterfeit checks*, and from all other sources, cannot exceed three millions seven hundred and forty-three thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine dollars, a loss arising partly from the peculiar situation of the moneyed relations of the country, but principally from a misplaced confidence in *unworthy agents*.—The past history of the Bank has proved, that where a *sense of moral obligation is wanting*, the existing laws are inadequate to deter the *Agents* of the Bank from the commission of *frauds* upon its vaults."—Extract from "Report of the Committee of Inspection and Investigation appointed by the Stockholders of the Bank of the United States, adopted and ordered to be printed by the Triennial meeting, held October 1, 1822."

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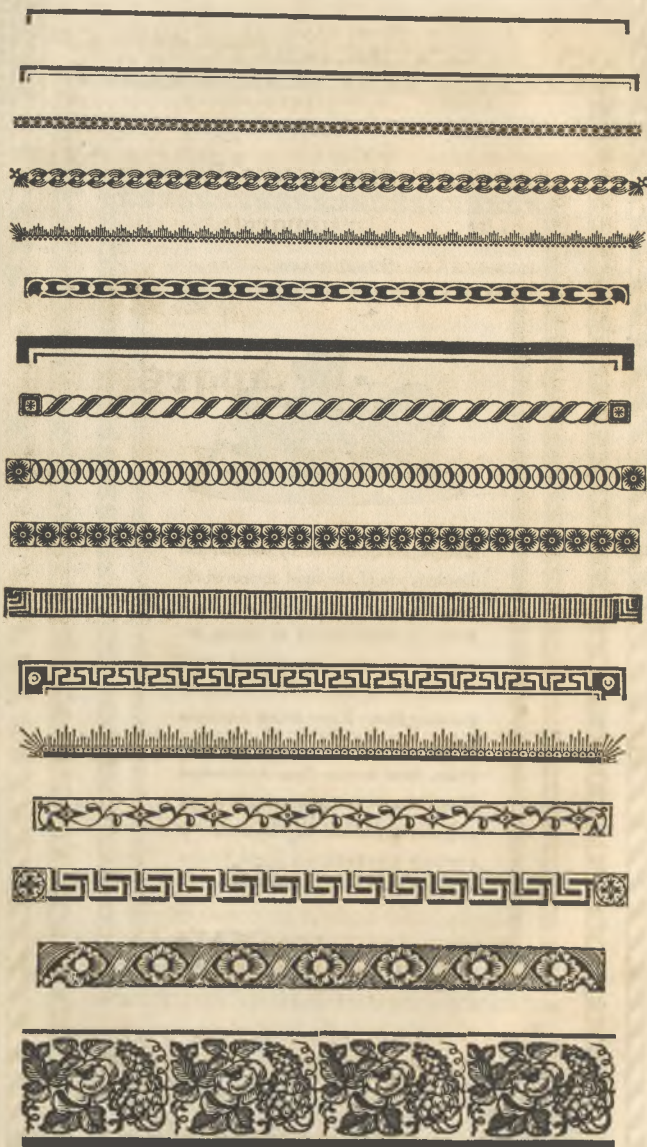
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THE manners of a people are not to be found in the schools of learning, or the palaces of greatness, where the national character is obscured or obliterated by travel or instruction, by philosophy or vanity; nor is public happiness to be estimated by the assemblies of the gay, or the banquets of the rich. *The great mass of nations is neither rich nor gay.* They whose aggregate constitutes the people, are found in the streets and villages; in the shops and farms; and from them, collectively considered, must *the measure of general prosperity* be taken. As they approach to delicacy, a nation is refined; as their conveniences and comforts are multiplied, a nation may be denominated wealthy.

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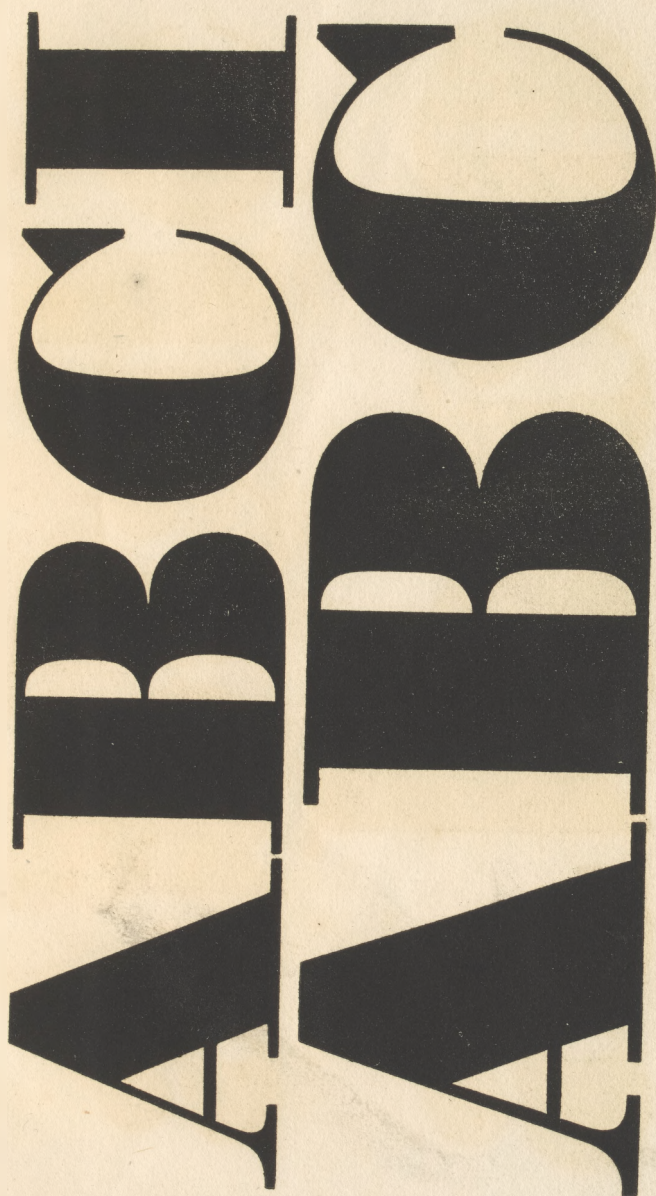
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